

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REVEREND
ALFRED C. KRASS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of the late Reverend Alfred C. Krass, retired pastor of the United Christian Church in Levittown, Pennsylvania, and former missionary to Ghana.

This weekend, the Interfaith Community of Lower Bucks County will posthumously present their inaugural Peace Prize to Reverend Krass, who passed away last year at the age of seventy-four.

Throughout his life, Reverend Krass was a symbol of unity and peace who called for open communication between those of different faiths and cultures.

Reverend Krass was also the founder and first president of the Interfaith Housing Development Corp. of Bucks County and the Lower Bucks Center for Church and Community.

Dedicating his life to the service of others, Reverend Krass was a selfless leader who left a lasting impression on his community, and serves as an example to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MARGARET BURNS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Margaret Burns, a resident of my district in Pocasset, Massachusetts, as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

Margaret was born on September 29, 1912 in Braintree, Massachusetts. After finishing high school she went on to work at Armstrong Cork Flooring, now World Industries, as a secretary.

In 1953, Margaret, met the love of her life, Garrett Burns. Together they have raised two children, Tom and Carol, who gave them six grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Margaret considers herself lucky for having been "happily married for nearly sixty years." Some of her most memorable moments were with her husband at the Beacon Inn in New Hampshire where they would go for weekends.

In addition to spending time with her husband, Margaret was always involved with her children. She was a devoted attendee of Parent-Teacher Association meetings when her children were young. Today, she loves to cook for her many family gatherings, she enjoys weaving rugs, and she looks forward to the many bridge games she plays with her friends.

Margaret does not attribute her longevity to any one thing except her overall happiness. She makes sure to mention that her successful marriage has helped her to live a long and content life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Margaret Burns on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of happiness and health.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF STAFF SERGEANT
ANTONIO RIVERA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Staff Sergeant Antonio Rivera of the Pennsylvania National Guard and resident of Pottstown, Montgomery County on the occasion of being selected as the 2012 Liberty USO Service Member of the Year (Army).

SSG Rivera enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard on October 18, 2000 as a 14M stinger missile operator and joined the ranks of Charlie Company 213 ADA. In 2006, SSG Rivera was ordered to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After six months of training, he was deployed as a 31B military police officer and served as a team leader providing convoy security. SSG Rivera earned a Combat Action Badge when an IED detonated beneath his vehicle in his first month in country.

In 2008, SSG Rivera transitioned into a 21B Combat Engineer Company and in 2009 achieved his current rank before being deployed for a second time in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While serving on this deployment, SSG Rivera earned Battalion Soldier of the Quarter. On August 10, 2010, SSG Rivera earned the Purple Heart after his vehicle was struck by an IED during a routine clearance operation. Although he suffered shrapnel wounds to his neck, SSG Rivera stayed focused on taking care of his platoon and teammates.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Staff Sergeant Antonio Rivera of the Pennsylvania National Guard on the occasion of being selected as the 2012 Liberty USO Service Member of the Year (Army) and for his great service to the United States of America.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC
CHARITIES AND MONSIGNOR JO-
SEPH SEMANCIK

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Catholic Charities, Diocese of Gary, as the organization celebrates its 75th anniversary. During the celebration, which will take place on Friday, October 5, 2012, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana, Catholic Charities will also take time to honor my dear friend, Monsignor Joseph Semancik, for his 38 years of dedicated service to the organization.

Catholic Charities, a part of the Diocese of Gary, has been helping to meet the needs of citizens throughout Northwest Indiana for the past 75 years. It is a private, not-for-profit social service agency that serves Lake, Porter, LaPorte, and Strake Counties in Northwest Indiana. Catholic Charities, established in 1937, was originally part of the Diocese of Fort Wayne until 1957, when it became part of the Diocese of Gary. Initially, its function was to

serve the underprivileged and needy through programs that would meet the professional standards of social work. However, throughout the years, Catholic Charities has focused its attention on programs that meet the changing needs of the community. In recent years, counseling, volunteer programs, and programs for the elderly and family life ministry have been added. Catholic Charities has been triumphant due to the unwavering dedication of its staff, board members, volunteers, and donors. Catholic Charities is a remarkable organization that is dedicated to serving those most in need and has been an extraordinary asset to the community. Northwest Indiana is not only grateful, but proud to have had the organization's support and help during the past 75 years.

Born in 1929, Joseph Semancik was ordained a Catholic priest in 1953 and in 1984 was named a Domestic Prelate with the title Monsignor. First and foremost, Monsignor Semancik is a man of God, who has tirelessly discharged his sacred duties with vigor, compassion, and an uncommon practicality. Generous to a fault with this time and commitment to help those most in need, Monsignor Joseph Semancik was deeply involved for most of his entire adult life with Catholic Charities, both locally and at the national level. A holder of a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, Father Semancik is an author and teacher as well. In his "spare time," Monsignor was the local Diocesan Director of Catholic Relief Services, representing North America on a planning committee for Caritas Internationalis, a union of 145 Catholic Charities organizations worldwide. He also was a founder of Hospice of the Calumet Area and one of the originators of the Indiana Catholic Conference. Monsignor Semancik currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Calumet College of Saint Joseph, the Board of Directors for Saint Catherine Hospital, the Board of the Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, and is a member of the Lake County Advancement Committee.

The recipient of numerous awards, I believe Joe Semancik is probably most gratified by the respect and affection shown by those innumerable individuals whose spirit, body, and mind were guided, made whole, and yes made to laugh, because this good man touched their lives. It is an honor to consider Monsignor Joseph Semancik a friend, and it has been a privilege for each of us in Northwest Indiana to have had our lives enriched by this good and holy man.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Catholic Charities and Monsignor Semancik. For their remarkable commitment to serving those most in need, Catholic Charities and Monsignor Semancik are to be highly commended, and they serve as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE CITY OF ALLEN-
TOWN

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 250th anniversary of the founding of my